



DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

Office of Workers' Compensation Programs

Division of Longshore and Harbor Workers' Compensation

Proposed Extension of Existing Collection; Comment request

ACTION: Notice

SUMMARY: The Department of Labor, as part of its continuing effort to reduce paperwork and respondent burden, conducts a preclearance consultation program to provide the general public and Federal agencies with an opportunity to comment on proposed and/or continuing collections of information in accordance with the paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (PRA95) [44 U.S.C. 3506 (c) (2) (A)] This program helps to ensure that requested data can be provided in the desired format, reporting burden (time and financial resources) is minimized, collection instruments are clearly understood, and the impact of collection requirements on respondents can be properly assessed. Currently, the Office of Workers' Compensation (OWCP) is soliciting comments concerning the proposed collection: **Pre-Hearing Statement (LS-18)**. A copy of the proposed information collection request can be obtained by contacting the office listed below in the address section of this Notice.

DATES: Written comments must be submitted to the office listed in the addresses section below on or before [INSERT 60-DAYS AFTER PUBLICATION IN THE FEDERAL REGISTER].

ADDRESSES: Ms. Yoon Ferguson, U.S. Department of Labor, 200 Constitution Ave., NW, Room S-32331, Washington, D.C. 20210, telephone (202) 693-0701, fax (202) 693-1447, Email Ferguson.Yoon@dol.gov. Please use only one method of transmission for comments (mail, fax, or Email).

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION

I. Background: The Office of Workers' Compensation Programs, (OWCP) administers the Longshore and Harbor Workers' Compensation Act. The Act provides benefits to workers injured in maritime employment on the navigable waters of the United States or in an adjoining area customarily used by an employer in loading, unloading, repairing, or building a vessel. In addition, several acts extend the Longshore Act's coverage to certain other employees.

Title 20, CFR 702.317 provides for the referral of claims under the Longshore Act for formal hearings. This Section provides that before a case is transferred to the Office of Administrative Law Judges the district director shall furnish each of the parties or their representatives with a copy of a pre-hearing statement form. Each party shall, within 21 days after receipt of each form, complete it and return it to the district director. Upon receipt of the forms, the district director, after checking them for completeness and after any further conferences that, in his/her opinion, are warranted, shall transmit them to the Office of the

Chief Administrative Law Judge with all available evidence which the parties intend to submit at the hearing. This information collection is currently approved for use through June 30, 2014.

II. Review Focus: The Department of Labor is particularly interested in comments which:

- * evaluate whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information will have practical utility;

- * evaluate the accuracy of the agency's estimate of the burden of the proposed collection of information, including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used;

- * enhance the quality, utility and clarity of the information to be collected; and

- * minimize the burden of the collection of information on those who are to respond, including through the use of appropriate automated, electronic, mechanical, or other technological collection techniques or other forms of information technology, e.g., permitting electronic submissions of responses.

III. Current Actions: The Department of Labor seeks the extension of approval of this information collection in order to carry out its responsibility to refer cases for formal hearings.

Agency: Office of Workers' Compensation Programs

Type of Review: Extension

Title: Pre-Hearing Statement

OMB Number: 1240-0036

Agency Number: LS-18

Affected Public: Insurance carriers and self-insurers

Total Respondents: 3,100

Total Annual Responses: 3,100

Estimated Total Burden Hours: 527

Estimated Time Per Response: 10 minutes

Frequency: On occasion

Total Burden Cost (capital/startup): \$0

Total Burden Cost (operating/maintenance): \$1,612

Comments submitted in response to this notice will be summarized and/or included in the request for Office of Management and Budget approval of the information collection request; they will also become a matter of public record.

DATED: February 21, 2014

Yoon Ferguson
Agency Clearance Officer,
Office of Workers' Compensation Programs
US Department of Labor

Billing Code No. 4510-CF-P

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